



## KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION

### DECEMBER BOARD NOTES

(NOTE: The agenda and materials for all Kentucky Board of Education meetings can be found on the board's online materials site at: <http://portal.ksba.org/public/Agency.aspx?PublicAgencyID=4388&AgencyTypeID=1>. Also, a recording of the December 3 session can be found at <http://education.ky.gov/KBE/meet/Pages/default.aspx>.)

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#### Volume 22, No. 6 -- Report of the December 2-3, 2014, Regular Meeting

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##### ***COMMENTS FROM JONATHAN PARRENT, KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION VICE-CHAIR***

Since I chaired the December 3 Kentucky Board of Education meeting as its vice-chair due to Chair Roger Marcum's attendance at a national meeting, I will make the introductory remarks for this edition of "Board Notes".



Several key conversations occurred at the December meeting that were vitally important to ensuring a high-quality education for all students in our state.

First, staff from The Education Trust advised the board on points to consider as it revises the accountability system so that reduction of achievement gaps is definitely addressed. We learned that gaps are persisting and that accountability systems can mask the performance of student groups. This is not acceptable to the Kentucky Board of Education as its vision is "Every Child -- Proficient and Prepared for Success". The board will be pursuing solutions to these issues through revisions to regulations, gathering feedback from stakeholders and revisions to the strategic plan.

Second, the board heard proposals from department staff on specific revisions to the accountability model that will target gap closure as well as improved performance for all students. Many of these proposed changes came from superintendents and/or local educators as suggestions for making the model better and fairer. The board believes that we must examine the accountability system at regular intervals to see what is working well and what is not working. Only through a regular review process can we ensure the model is performing as envisioned to yield continuous improvement.

Finally, a resolution supporting the full funding of the KTRS Pension Fund was passed by the board. While not aimed at students, it urges support of the fine educators that work with our students and the necessity of keeping the system solvent for their retirement. Without the work of

our teachers and administrators, a high-quality education for students is not possible. I ask you to join the Kentucky Board of Education in urging the Governor and General Assembly to find a solution to this serious issue.

More details on each of these topics are found in the articles below.

### ***RESOLUTION SUPPORTING FULLY FUNDING KTRS PENSION FUND APPROVED***

At its December 3 meeting, the Kentucky Board of Education approved a resolution encouraging the Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System to work with the Governor and General Assembly to develop solutions to fully finance the teacher pension fund. The board did not endorse any particular strategy to solve the situation; however, board members were clear that the situation is extremely serious and must be addressed to ensure that the educators in our state continue to be supported by the pension fund.

Below is the full text of the resolution:

#### ***RESOLUTION BY THE KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY***

- Whereas, The Kentucky Board of Education supports educators for their service to the students and parents of the Commonwealth; and*
- Whereas, The Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System (KTRS) was established in 1938 and provides retirement security for Kentucky's educators; and*
- Whereas, KTRS has over 141,000 members, over 49,500 beneficiaries receive a benefit and KTRS members are not eligible to participate in Social Security; and*
- Whereas, KTRS distributes monthly over \$144 million in retirement benefits and \$21.5 million in medical benefits with 92% of KTRS retirees living in Kentucky; and*
- Whereas, New accounting rules, set by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), will require underfunded pension plans to report unfunded liability using a lower assumed rate of return, thus reducing Kentucky's funding percentage from 51.9% to 42.4%; and*
- Whereas, The Annual Required Contribution (ARC), the amount an employer must contribute annually to a defined benefit pension fund, based on an actuarial formula, to fund current and future retirement benefits and liabilities to pay the benefits of current and future retirees, is underfunded; and*
- Whereas, Due to KTRS's pension liability growing at 7.5% per year, the KTRS Board of Trustees is exploring potential short-term and long-term solutions to address the unfunded liability; and*

***Whereas, The amounts of additional funding needed from the Commonwealth to fund the ARC for FY 2015 and FY 2016 are \$386 million and \$487 million respectively; this additional funding was not available in the recently passed budget; and without a plan to fund the ARC, accounting rules for 2014 will result in an increase in the unfunded liability from \$13.9 billion to \$21.9 billion.***

***NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Kentucky Board of Education fully supports the Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System's efforts to work with the Governor and the General Assembly to develop solutions to fully fund the KTRS Pension Fund.***

***Done in the city of Frankfort, this third day of  
December, in the year Two Thousand and  
Fourteen***

For more information on this resolution, contact Mary Ann Miller at (502) 564-3141, ext. 4840, or via e-mail at [MaryAnn.Miller@education.ky.gov](mailto:MaryAnn.Miller@education.ky.gov).

### ***THE EDUCATION TRUST PRESENTS DATA ON CLOSING ACHIEVEMENT GAPS***

Due to the commissioner's and board's high level of concern about and commitment to closing achievement gaps, staff from The Education Trust addressed the board on how performance gaps among student groups persist and can be masked by current accountability models. The slide presentation used during the topic can be found [here](#) and the report produced by The Education Trust can be found [here](#).

Commissioner Holliday indicated that the gap issue is something the department and board are passionate about and noted that to address it, the accountability model is being revised, more work will occur with advisory groups and the gap delivery plan is being reworked.

For more information on this agenda item, contact Mary Ann Miller at (502) 564-3141, ext. 4840, or via e-mail at [MaryAnn.Miller@education.ky.gov](mailto:MaryAnn.Miller@education.ky.gov).

### ***ACCOUNTABILITY REGULATIONS GO THROUGH FIRST READING***

Following the presentation on achievement gaps, Associate Commissioner Ken Draut discussed proposed revisions to the accountability model that would address reducing gaps as well as providing incentives to schools to move all students to higher performance levels. The proposed changes would:

- Add a novice reduction target for all individual gap groups into the accountability system as a focus for improvement
- Reduce the weight of growth at the elementary level to bring it into better alignment with middle and high schools. As a result, the weight of achievement and/or gap would increase.
- Apply the Annual Measurable Objective (AMO) only to the Next-Generation Learners component
- Identify Focus Schools based on the lowest five percent for each individual student group

- Increase the minimum graduation rate from 70 percent to 80 percent to identify new Priority Schools or for a school to exit priority status
- Add the requirement for Schools of Distinction that they not be identified as a Focus School
- Redefine a Priority School as a school that has an overall score in the bottom five percent of overall scores by level for all schools that have failed to meet the AMO for the last three consecutive years
- Waive the 100-day enrollment rule to include scores for students in the Early Graduate program
- Assign scores to the district for students in an alternative program who have never attended a regular school in the district

The proposed revisions to the accountability model will come back for a second reading in February.

For more information on this topic, contact Associate Commissioner Ken Draut at (502) 564-2256, ext. 4728, or via e-mail at [ken.draut@education.ky.gov](mailto:ken.draut@education.ky.gov).

### ***COMMISSIONER HOLLIDAY'S EVALUATION AND GOALS APPROVED***

The Kentucky Board of Education approved Commissioner Terry Holliday's official written evaluation document at the December meeting. It can be found [here](#).

Also, the board approved Holliday's goals for 2014-15, which can be found [here](#).

For more information on the evaluation or goals, contact Mary Ann Miller at (502) 564-3141, ext. 4840, or via e-mail at [MaryAnn.Miller@education.ky.gov](mailto:MaryAnn.Miller@education.ky.gov).

### ***DR. SAMUEL ROBINSON AWARD PRESENTED TO TWO INDIVIDUALS***

Two outstanding individuals were selected to receive the Dr. Samuel Robinson Award at the December meeting – Cindy Heine, retired Associate Director of the Prichard Committee, and Dr. Henry Webb, Floyd County Superintendent. The award is given to an individual or group in Kentucky for outstanding leadership, commitment and service in promoting equity and opportunity to learn at high levels for all Kentucky students. It is named for Dr. Samuel Robinson, a former educator and member of the Kentucky Board of Education, who is known for being a racial and social justice advocate and for promoting the difference education can make in the lives of all students.



Details on the co-winners can be found in the press release [here](#).

For more information on this award, contact Mary Ann Miller at (502) 564-3141, ext. 4840, or via e-mail at [MaryAnn.Miller@education.ky.gov](mailto:MaryAnn.Miller@education.ky.gov).

### ***OTHER ITEMS APPROVED BY THE BOARD IN DECEMBER WERE:***

- Minutes from the October 6-7, 2014, regular meeting

- 1% increment in salary for the commissioner as required by the 2014 budget bill (HB 235)
- Final order placing Menifee County under state assistance
- Statement of Consideration for 705 KAR 4:250, Energy Technology Engineering Career Pathway
- 2014-15 Local District Tax Rates Levied
- 2014-15 Local District Working Budgets
- 702 KAR 3:320, Finance Officer Certification
- Facility Plans for Breckinridge and Washington County School Districts
- Waiver for Jefferson County of 702 KAR 4:050, Section 3, and 702 KAR 4:170, Section 2.b.3.3, relative to construction of Norton Commons Elementary School
- Waiver for Carter County of specific requirements relative to the district leadership assessment in 702 KAR 5:180
- 2014 Consolidated Annual Report and state improvement plan required by the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act
- 2015 Legislative Agenda including support for recommendations from the Dual Credit Task Force and for fully funding the KTRS Pension Fund

***OTHER ITEMS REVIEWED IN DECEMBER WITH NO ACTION TAKEN WERE:***

- Report from Warren County and Bowling Green Independent on status of mediation
- Hearing Officer's Report on regulations
- Update on Breathitt County State Management
- Kentucky Teachers' Retirement System Update
- Strategic Plan Update
- Status Update on School Districts in State Assistance
- KDE Employment Reports (All offices and Office of Career and Technical Education)

***MEETING DATES FOR 2015 AND 2016***

**KBE Meeting Dates for 2015**

February 4, 2015	Regular meeting	Frankfort
April 1, 2015	Regular meeting	Frankfort
June 3, 2015	Regular meeting	Frankfort
August 5-6, 2015	KBE Retreat and Regular Meeting	Frankfort
October 5-6, 2015	Commissioner's Evaluation Discussion and Regular meeting	Frankfort
December 9, 2015	Regular meeting	Frankfort

**KBE Meeting Dates for 2016**

February 3, 2016	Regular meeting	Frankfort
April 13, 2016	Regular meeting	Frankfort
June 8, 2016	Regular meeting	Frankfort
August 3-4, 2016	KBE Retreat and Regular meeting	Frankfort

October 4-5, 2016	Commissioner's Evaluation Discussion and Regular meeting	Frankfort
December 7, 2016	Regular meeting	Frankfort

For more information on the board's meeting dates, contact Mary Ann Miller at (502) 564-3141, ext. 4840, or via e-mail at [maryann.miller@education.ky.gov](mailto:maryann.miller@education.ky.gov).

*The actions described above were taken in open session of the Kentucky Board of Education at the December 2-3, 2014, regular meeting, conducted in Frankfort, Kentucky. This information is provided in summary form, and an official record of the meeting is available on tape in the permanent records of the Kentucky Board of Education, First Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. These records are open for inspection Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.*

*For additional information about the Kentucky Board of Education meetings, agendas, minutes or special accommodations needed for attending meetings, contact Mary Ann Miller, Kentucky Board of Education Executive Director, at (502) 564-3141, ext. 4840.*

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